(d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to help the tea industry which include restructuring/rescheduleiment of the tea loans outstanding from the commercial banks etc., financial incentives for the export of tea, programme for quality upgradation, innovative marketing strategies in the international as well as domestic markets to promote exports and to increase the domestic consumption of tea, reduction in excise duty and increase in customs duty on import of tea. Besides, the programmes and schemes of the Tenth Five Year Plan have also been formulated to ensure long term development of the tea sector by increasing productivity, technology upgradation, value addition, product diversification and improving the quality and market ability of tea.

Government has also appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and to suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival.

BIS certificate for quality standard of imports

1857. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of certain products are allowed only when BIS certifies about their quality standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quality tested by BIS of such products during the last two years, year-wise and products-wise; and

(d) the total import which was made after BIS clearance during the said period, year-wise and product-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In case of 135 specified products, imports are allowed only after BIS has granted licence to the foreign manufacturers to use the BIS standard mark on these products being imported into India. In terms of the conditions in the EXIM Policy of the Government, imports of these specified products is subject to adherence to the mandatory BIS quality standards as applicable on similar products that are produced domestically. For compliance of this requirement all foreign manufacturers of these products who intend to export to India have to obtain BIS certification marks licence.

(c) BIS does not check each consignment of materials that is being imported but grants the licence to the manufacturer for making the products with BIS standard mark on self certification basis. The licence is granted to the overseas manufacturers after satisfying that the manufacturer has the requisite manufacturing and testing capabilities and also that the manufacturer agrees to follow a scheme of testing and inspection to ensure that the products bearing marks are conforming to the relevant Indian standards on consistent basis. The BIS has conducted sample tests for its foreign licenses during 2001-02 and 2002-03 as below.

Product	2001-2002	2003-03
Cement	8	2
Mineral Water/Packaged Water	2	3
Steel Tubes	1	4
Galvanised Plain and corrugated Steel Sheets	-	2
Cold Rolled Carbon Steel Sheets	-	3

(d) Only in respect of 135 specified products BIS certification has been mandatory. Without such certification imports are not permitted. The data on all imports are available in the publication, "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Vol.-II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S), copies of the same are available in the library of the Parliament.

Export of gems and jewellery

1858. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export of gems and jewellery have recorded a rise in the previous years;

(b) the worth of export during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to further increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Export of Gem and Jewellery in the last three years compared to the year 1998-99, have recorded a rise.